

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) Anionic hydrogel matrix obtained by chemical reticulation by means of irradiation of polymers suitably derivatised with photoreticulable groups, wherein the photoreticulable groups are derived from the insertion of glycidyl methacrylate (GMA) and methacrylic anhydride (MA) in the side chain of PHEA in the presence of acid comonomers.
- 2-4 (Cancelled).
5. (Original) Matrix according to claim 1, in which the acid comonomer is selected from methacrylic acid or acrylic acid.
6. (Original) Matrix according to claim 1, in which the irradiation agents are selected from the group consisting of gamma rays, beta rays and ultraviolet radiation.
7. (Currently Amended) Matrix according to claim 1, in the form of nanoparticles, microparticles, gels, films, cylinders or sponges, ~~the preferred form being microparticles~~.
8. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition consisting of a matrix according to claim 1 and one or more active ingredients.
9. (Original) Composition according to claim 8, containing additionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
10. (Original) Composition according to claim 9, in which the excipients are selected from the group consisting of bioadhesives, chitosans, polyacrylamides, natural or synthetic rubbers and acrylic acid polymers.

11. (Currently Amended) Composition according to claim 8, in which said active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of

- analgesic agents, such as acetaminophen, phenacetin and sodium salicylate;
- antitussive agents, such as dextromethorphan and codeine phosphate;
- bronchodilators, such as albuterol and prenalterol;
- antipsychotics, such as haloperidol and chlorpromazine;
- antihypertensive agents and coronary dilators, such as mono- and dinitrate isosorbide and captopril;
- selective  $\beta$ -2 antagonists, such as salbutamol, terbutaline, ephedrine, and orciprenaline sulphate;
- calcium antagonists, such as nifedipine, nicardipine, diltiazem and verapamil;
- antiparkinson drugs, such as pergolide, carbidopa and levodopa;
- hormones;
- non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as ketoprofene, ibuprofene, diclofenac, diflunisal, piroxicam, naproxene, ketotolac, nimesulide, budesonide, tiaprofenic acid, mesalazine (5-aminoosalicylic acid) cortisone, hydrocortisone, betamethasone and prednisone;
- antihistamines, such as terfenadine and loratadine;
- antidiarrhoeal and intestinal anti-inflammatory agents such as loperamide, 5-aminoosalicylic acid, olsalazine, sulfasalazine and budesonide;
- spasmolytics, such as octylonium-bromide;

- anxiolytics, such as chlordiazepoxides, oxazepam, medazepam, alprazolam, diazepam and lorazepam;

- oral antidiabetic agents, such as glipizide, metformin, phenformin, gliclazide and glibenclamide;

- cathartics, such as bisacodyl and sodium picosulphate;

- antiepileptic agents, such as valproate, carbamazepine, phenytoin and gabapentin;

- anticancer agents;

- disinfectants of the oral cavity or antimicrobials, such as benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride or tibezonium iodide, and a number of aminoderivatives such as benzidamine and chlorhexidine as well as their salts and derivatives;

- sodium fluoride;

- cardioactive agents;

- antihistamines;

- L-carnitine and/or one or more alkanoyl L-carnitines, or one of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

12. (Currently Amended) Composition according to claim 11, in which the one or more alkanoyl L-carnitines are, straight or branched, have has 2-6 carbon atoms, and are is selected from the group consisting of acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, valeryl or isovaleryl L-carnitine.

13. (Original) Composition according to claim 11, in which said pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-carnitine or of the alkanoyl L-carnitines is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, orotate, aspartate, acid aspartate, acid citrate, magnesium citrate,

phosphate, acid phosphate, fumarate and acid fumarate, magnesium fumarate, lactate, maleate, and acid maleate, oxalate, acid oxalate, pamoate, acid pamoate, sulphate, acid sulphate, glucose phosphate, tartrate and acid tartrate, glycerophosphate, mucate, magnesium tartrate, 2-aminoethane sulphonate, magnesium 2-amino-ethane sulphonate, methane sulphonate, choline tartrate, trichloroacetate, and trifluoroacetate.

14. (Original) Composition according to claim 8 for oral use.

15. (Currently Amended) Method of treating a patient or an animal in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 8, wherein said patient or animal suffers from cardiovascular diseases, tumors, central and peripheral nervous system diseases or intestinal diseases and treating said patient or animal,

16-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 15 47, in which the active ingredient useful for the treatment of chronic intestinal disease is propionyl L-carnitine.

19. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, in which said composition can be administered by the parenteral or vaginal routes.

20. (New) Matrix according to claim 1 in the form of microparticles.

21. (New) Composition according to claim 11, wherein  
the analgesic agents are acetaminophen, phenacetin and sodium salicylate;  
the antitussive agents are dextromethorphan and codeine phosphate;  
the bronchodilators are albuterol and procaterol;  
the antipsychotics are haloperidol and chlorpromazine;

the antihypertensive agents and coronary dilators are mono- and dinitrate isosorbide and captopril;

the selective 6-2 antagonists are salbutamol, terbutaline, ephedrine, and orciprenaline sulphate;

the calcium antagonists are nifedipine, nicardipine, diltiazem and verapamil;

the antiparkinson drugs are pergolide, carbidopa and levodopa;

the non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are ketoprofene, ibuprofene, diclofenac, diflunisal, piroxicam, naproxene, kerotolac, nimesulide, budesonide, tiaprofenic acid, mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid) cortisone, hydrocortisone, betamethasone and prednisone;

the antihistamines are terfenadine and loratadine;

the antidiarrhoeal and intestinal anti-inflammatory agents are loperamide, 5-aminosalicylic acid, olsalazine, sulfasalazine and budesonide;

the spasmolytics are octylonium bromide;

the anxiolytics are chlordiazepoxides, oxazepam, medazepam, alprazolam, diazepam and lorazepam;

the oral antidiabetic agents are glipizide, methformin, phenformin, gliclazide and glibenclamide;

the cathartics are bisacodil and sodium picosulphate;

the antiepileptic agents are valproate, carbamazepine, phenytoin and gabapentin; and

the disinfectants of the oral cavity or antimicrobials are benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride or tibezonium iodide, benzidamine and chlorhexidine as well as their salts and derivatives.